

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 50X1-HUM

1. Bulgarian pharmacies receive their medicines for sale from the State depots. The depots receive much of their supplies in large shipments, but forward them to individual pharmacies in small quantities in plain, unmarked wrappings which conceal the original source of the products. All the most important medicines are of Soviet manufacture. Prices are relatively low.
2. Pharmacies were nationalized in 1949 and are now State enterprises. After nationalization, the original proprietors were allowed to continue in their profession, operating under State supervision; in these cases, however, they were always assigned to pharmacies other than their own.

Supply of Drugs

3. Penicillin is sold only in certain pharmacies selected by the district health authorities. [redacted] in Plovdiv, there were 25 pharmacies [redacted] of these, only three or four could obtain penicillin, and what they did obtain was of Soviet manufacture. Soviet penicillin is considered to be greatly inferior in quality to the American product, less efficacious, and often causes dizziness and pain after the injection. To acquire penicillin, a person must present to the pharmacist a record of a medical visit, signed by two doctors, containing the medical diagnosis and a prescription for the drug. Pharmacists may sell penicillin only upon receipt of such a document; if the treatment of a patient is continued the two doctors must sign a new prescription.

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5. Streptomycin comes from the USSR only in small quantities and for this reason is allocated only to hospitals for use in special cases and is not sold to patients who are being treated at home.
6. Sulfamides, always of Soviet manufacture (usually norsulfazol, sulfazol, and cibazol), are only available in small quantities. They are sold upon receipt of a prescription signed by a doctor, and are usually prescribed only for old people and for children, or in special cases.
7. Gramatsidin, an antibiotic of Soviet manufacture, is rarely available in the pharmacies.

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